



Montana Department of Commerce  
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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Special Events Grant Program Funds Available**

*January 12, 2007 Application Deadline*

**Helena – October 16, 2006** – Governor Brian Schweitzer announces that Montana communities, organizations and tribal governments sponsoring or planning new annual events are invited to apply for \$50,000 in state tourism “bed tax” grant funds available from the Montana Department of Commerce, Travel Montana Special Events Grant Program (SEGP). The SEGP application deadline is January 12, 2007.

“This is an excellent opportunity for our non-profit organizations from across the state to use the SEGP grants to draw more of Montana’s 10.1 million annual visitors to their neck of the woods,” said Governor Brian Schweitzer.

Commerce Director Tony Preite points out that since its creation in 2002, SEGP has provided \$301,000 in tourism “bed tax” funds to 44 events in 32 Montana communities. “This grant program is an excellent resource to create and sustain economic development through event development which not only benefits our communities but also provides an enhanced experience for our visitors.”

Events or festivals established prior to May 30, 2004 are not eligible for funding under the program. Grants will be awarded based on a 3-tier approach that ranks counties on the basis of lowest per capita income, slowest population growth and highest unemployment. The grants are designed to be matching funds for non-profit organizations involved in developing new annual events.

For more information about the SEGP, or to request an application, contact Carol Crockett at Travel Montana, 406-841-2796. SEGP application materials can be downloaded from Travel Montana’s Intranet site: **[travelmontana.mt.gov](http://travelmontana.mt.gov)**.

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